

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are pending. In the present amendment, Claims 1, 9, 13, and 18 are currently amended. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 7, line 13 to page 8, line 11, at page 12, lines 9-17, and in Figures 1 and 8. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejected as anticipated by Segati (U.S. Patent No. 5,174,458); Claims 1, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Segati in view of the discussion in the Background of the Invention section on page 1 of the present application (hereinafter “Background”); Claims 2, 4, 10, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Segati in view of Background and Shimada et al. (Japanese Publication No. 2001-072030, hereinafter “Shimada”); Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Segati in view of Background, Shimada, and Ichikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,126,315, hereinafter “Ichikawa”); Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Segati in view of Background and Cobb (U.S. Patent No. 3,727,803); Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Segati in view of Background and Ichikawa; and Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Segati in view of Background, Ichikawa, and Takon (JP 11130112).

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, Claim 9 is hereby amended to recite “unfolding the bag from the folded state to an unfolded state; and after the unfolding, filling the bag's main body with at least one of a surface active agent or a solvent as a component.” Thus, consistent with the Examiner’s understanding in the first paragraph

on page 3, Claim 9 is amended to clarify that the bag is not filled from the L-shaped folded position shown in Figure 8. A person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that a charging port (22A in Figure 1) would be filled from a flat position and not when both side portions were folded into an L-shape. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 9 is fully enabled and request that the rejection of Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Turning now to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), it is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 18.

Claim 1 is amended to clarify how the folded self-supporting bag is further folded. As can be seen in Figure 8, for example, the folded bag is further folded by standing up both side portions of the body portion and the bottom portion in a width direction while center portions of the body portion and the bottom portion remain flat. Thus, *each side* of the bag is L-shaped, while the center remains flat, to maintain the self-supporting bag in a folded state.

Further, Claim 1 is amended to recite that the body portion includes a front surface (20A in Figure 1) such that, when the bag is folded by standing up both side portions of the body portion, a left side of the front surface faces a right side of the front surface with a center portion of the front surface located between the left side and the right side. Accordingly, as can be seen in Figure 8, multiple bags can be stacked on one another in the folded state. It is noted that Claim 18, while directed to an alternative embodiment, is amended to recite features similar to the ones discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited in independent Claims 1 and 18.

Segati is relied upon as the primary reference in each of the pending art rejections. Page 4 of the Office Action includes an annotated version of Figure 9 indicating how the Examiner is interpreting the folded container of Segati to read upon the previous claims.

However, as can be seen in Figure 9 of Segati, the folding described therein is completely different from the claimed folding. Specifically, Segati is rolled up from its base towards the top such that the sides of the main body do not face one another with the center portion therebetween. On the contrary, the left side of a front face of the main body only faces the left side and the right side only faces the right side.

Thus, Segati does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claims 1 and 18. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the secondary references fail to cure this deficiency of Segati. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

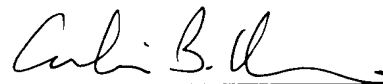
Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen G. Baxter, Ph.D.
Registration No. 32,884

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 07/09)



Colin B. Harris
Registration No. 58,969